Among these are 100% depreciation for income tax purposes, exemption from excise duty, concessional rates of custom duties and soft loans for users. Subsidy is also provided on solar lanterns, domestic lighting units, water pumping systems, solar stills and solar dryers.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies

2274. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide reservation to the backward classes in the allotment of LPG agencies and petrol-diesel retail outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). The existing policy reservation for different sections of the society as under :

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	-	25%
Physically Handicapped (PH)	-	7 1/2%
Defence (DC)	-	7 1/2%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	-	3%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	-	2%
Open (O)	-	55%

There is no reservation exclusively for backward classes. They are availing of the opportunities under the existing categories.

[English]

Million Well Scheme

2275. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wells constructed in the country particularly in Gujarat duirng the last three years under the Million Well Scheme, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost the programme particularly in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of wells constructed under Million Wells Scheme during the last three years are as under :

Year	Wells constructed All India (Including Gujarat)	Gujarat
1993-94	151673	5609
1994-95	158780	6407
1995-96	142462	4107

In addition 160453 wells all over India and 6299 wells in Gujarat are under construction.

(b) The Million Wells Scheme which was a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is now being implemented as an independent scheme w.e.f. 1.1.1996. The progress is being closely monitored and follow up action taken, where necessary for effective implementation of the Scheme.

[Translation]

Dhauli Ganga Power Projects

2276. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NHPC has acquired the agriculture land of local rural people for Dhauli Ganga Power Project in District Pithoragarh of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there is a provision to employ these people whose land has been acquired for the purpose;

(c) if so, the number of such people has been appointed so far;

(d) whether compensation has been paid to the farmers whose land has been acquired; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e). For construction of Dhauliganga Hydro-electric Project in District Pithoragarh of Uttar Pradesh, the total land requirement is 177.653 ha., out of which 24.57 ha. is agricultural land. The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has requested the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to initiate the process of land acquisition and a compensation package including employment of persons whose land is acquired and cash compensation for the land shall be decided in consultation with the State Government.

[English]

Employment

2277. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since formulated